

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 IO-13 AF-08 L-03

SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01

(ISO) W

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R 251910Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2100

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BL

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SUBJ: BOLIVIA'S REACTION TO GEPLACEA SUGAR MEETING IN PANAMA

REF: A. STATE 175782, B. SAN JOSE 3896, C. LA PAZ PREVIOUS

1. EMBOFF PAID VISIT TO CNECA (COMITE NACIONAL DE ESTUDIO DE CANA Y AZUCAR) OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MATTERS INCLUDING RECENT GEPLACEA MEETING IN PANAMA. BOLIVIAN REPS TO MEETING WERE ENGINEER MACLEAN, DIRECTOR OF CNECA AND DR TAPIA, CNECA'S LEGAL ADVISOR. THEIR REACTION TO THE MEETING WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE AND NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO DISAGREEMENT AND POTENTIAL BOYCOTT DESCRIBED REFTEL B, ALTHOUGH THEY STATED SMALLER MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PERU, SEEKING TO FORM SUB-GROUP PRIMARILY TO FACILITATE TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE AMONG THEMSELVES. THIS ASPECT OF GEPLACEA IS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO BOLIVIA, AND THEY FEEL THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO GAIN AND SOMETHING TO OFFER.

2. TAPIA HEADED WORKING GROUP ON BUDGET, WHICH REMAINS UNDETERMINED. HE STATED PERU AND COSTA RICA HAD PRESENTED PARALLEL APPROACHES AND MORE PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE AT NEXT GEPLACEA MEETING.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: BOLIVIANS REMAIN SUPPORTIVE OF GEPLACEA AND DON'T SEEM TO THINK DISSOLUTION OF GROUP IMMINENT. AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, GOB MAIN INTEREST IN GEPLACEA IS TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE AND JOINT APPROACH TO SEEKING STABLE WORLD SUGAR PRICES. GEPLACEA APPEARS TO THEM A GOOD VEHICLE FOR PURSUING NEW FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT AT NEXT MEETING OF IOS IN GENEVA, BUT THEY HAVE IN NO WAY INDICATED INTEREST IN FORMING SUGAR CARTEL. STEDMAN

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